

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2948

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UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1070

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (DARWISH, SAEED IBRAHIM) TC

SUBJ: TRAVEL OF UNDER SECRETARY UAE MINISTRY WATER AND ELECTRICITY

REF: ABU DHABI 789

1. SAEED IBRAHIM DARWISH, UNDERSECRETARY, UAE MINISTRY OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY, IN COMPANY THREE OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WILL BE ATTENDING UN SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES IN SAN FRANCISCO FROM MAY 20-29. SUBSEQUENT TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY, UNDER-SECRETARY'S OFFICE CONTACTED EMBASSY TO STATE THAT DERWISH WOULD WELCOME CONTACTS FROM U.S. FIRMS IN POWER AND DESALINATION FIELDS WHO INTERESTED IN ARRANGING POSSIBLE VISITS FOR HIM AND HIS PARTY TO U.S. FACILITIES, PRESUMABLY FOLLOWING UN CONFERENCE. IDEA PUT IN TERMS EXPOSING UAE OFFICIALS TO U.S. TECHNOLOGY AS ALTERNATIVE TO BRITISH WHICH CURRENTLY DOMINANT. WHILE POINT NOT ADDRESSED, WE WOULD ASSUME DARWISH PREPARED HANDLE OWN EXPENSES.

2. COMMENT: LAST MINUTE NATURE OF THIS APPROACH PLUS FACT THAT DARWISH'S MINISTER ALSO PLANNING TRIP TO U.S. LATER IN YEAR (REFTEL) RAISES SOME QUESTION RE UNDER-SECRETARY'S MOTIVES. PERHAPS HE FIGURING THAT IF MINISTER CAN ASK FOR SOME ATTENTION WHY SHOULDN'T HE. BUT FACT REMAINS THAT HE IS IN INFLUENTIAL POSITION AND IF U.S. FIRMS ABLE MAKE POSITIVE IMPACT ON HIM, THIS WILL
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BOTH LAY GROUNDWORK FOR MINISTERJS VISIT AND GENERALLY

STRENGTHEN IMAGE OF U.S. TECHNOLOGY IN MINISTRY'S UPPER
ECHELONS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT COMMERCE AND/OR DEPT. ALERT
APPROPRIATE FIRMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAVE EARLIER
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS AREA, TO UNDERSECRETARY DARWISH'S VISIT
AND HIS DESIRE FOR CONTACTS. PRESUMABLY SOME OF FIRMS WILL
BE INVOLVED IN OR AT LEAST FOLLOWING UN CONFERENCE
ITSELF, THUS FACILITATING SUCH CONTACTS EVEN WITH SHORT NOTICE
INVOLVED.
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